Please see **5 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) Fall 2012 MI-Access Online Answer Document Pilot 2) MI-Access and MEAP-Access Social Studies Reminder 3) Student Demographics and Fall Assessment Pre-ID 4) Splitting Reading and Writing between MEAP and MEAP-Access, and 5) Accessing the BAA Secure Site

## 1) Fall 2012 MI-Access Online Answer Document Pilot

BAA is piloting online versions of grade 3-8 MI-Access **answer documents** this fall. BAA is looking for districts interested in using an online answer document for the recording of student responses for the fall 2012 administration. *This would replace using a paper-based answer document*.

Please review the informational/overview sheet posted at [www.michigan.gov/mi-access](www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (under the What's New? heading) to learn the basics of the MI-Access online pilot. Please review this information, and if your district: 1) meets the minimum requirements for participation, and 2) is interested in participating in the online pilot, please complete the *MI-Access Fall 2012 Online Pilot Sign-up Survey* **by Tuesday, September 11, 2012.**

**IMPORTANT!!** Please be sure you also have your students pre-identified in the BAA Secure Site ([https://baa.state.mi.us/meap/login.asp](https://baa.state.mi.us/meap/login.asp)) **by Tuesday, September 11, 2012**.

- If students are not pre-identified by this deadline, these students will be ineligible to have their answer documents submitted online.
- In addition to pre-identifying these students, please be sure to do the following:

     o Have someone with a good understanding of your district's technology review the survey questions and overview documentation ahead of time.

     o Have the district Superintendent, or someone on his/her behalf, complete and submit the survey which can be found at the following location: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/MySurvey_EditorFull.aspx?sm=HFSjOzk8fBmYWiTo45JtwOnsXESSh16V3JhCdxWcjIE%3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/MySurvey_EditorFull.aspx?sm=HFSjOzk8fBmYWiTo45JtwOnsXESSh16V3JhCdxWcjIE%3d).

Completion of the survey will enable Questar Assessment, Inc. and the Office of Standards & Assessments (OSA) to better assess each district's testing needs and ensure that districts are aware of the technological requirements. The MI-Access online pilot will use the same "iTester" system that has been successfully implemented with the online English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) since Spring 2011. We expect the MI-Access online pilot project to be just as successful, and hope your district is willing to partner with BAA in this important pilot.

## 2) MI-Access and MEAP-Access Social Studies Reminder

Michigan does not currently offer an alternate assessment for social studies; therefore, students who take the Fall 2012 MI-Access and MEAP-Access assessments, based on their Individualized Education Program (IEP), should be administered a local assessment for social studies. This local assessment is then reported to the Bureau of Assessment & Accountability during the 'Students Not Tested' window. School districts should have a local policy about which social studies assessment will be used and have local school board-adopted proficiency standards for the local assessment.

To ensure the accuracy of social studies participation and proficiency data for your school and district, please make sure all students are tested in social studies this fall and students taking a local social studies assessment are properly reported during the 'Students Not Tested' window.

Future Plans for an Alternate Social Studies Assessment

As previously announced, the Bureau of Assessment & Accountability has begun work to develop a MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) assessment in social studies by forming committees to extend the Grade Level Content Expectations (reducing them in depth, breadth, and complexity so they are appropriate for the student population to be assessed). The projected timeline for the development of this new assessment has been included again here.

- June-August 2012 – committee work to extend social studies standards
- October-December 2012 – stakeholder review and finalization of extended social studies standards
- January-February 2013 – finalize test design
- Spring 2013 – social studies item writing
- Fall 2013 – social studies cognitive labs and field-testing
- Spring 2014 – first operational FI social studies assessment administered

## 3) Student Demographics and Fall Assessment Pre-ID

The BAA has received several inquiries asking how to assign student demographics to pre-ID records. For the past few assessment cycles, the BAA has used the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) General Collection (in fall and spring), and any Student Record Maintenance (SRM) submitted before the BAA's deadline to populate the demographic information in student assessment records (the close of the Maintenance Window for Fall Assessments). This process of populating student demographics from MSDS will continue this fall. Because student demographics cannot be assigned or updated at this time, the BAA removed student demographics from the Pre-ID Report.

The opportunity to flag students as belonging to a specific subgroup (e.g., special education, economically disadvantaged, etc.), or to make any other updates to student demographics will take place during the MSDS Fall General Collection, and during the Maintenance Window for Fall Assessments. The specific dates of the MSDS Fall General Collection and the last

date to update student records prior to the "lockdown" of fall assessment data will be announced near the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

## 4) Splitting Reading and Writing between MEAP and MEAP-Access

The determination of which assessment is appropriate for a student in each content area is a decision made by that student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. If a student's IEP Team determines that the student should take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) reading test and MEAP-Access writing test, or vice-versa, the student should be pre-identified reflecting these correct test types for reading and writing. Whether your district uses the Early Roster Collection or the BAA Secure Site to pre-identify students for assessment, the system will accept this split in test type between reading and writing. However, please note that a split in test type for reading and writing is not possible for students taking a MI-Access assessment (Participation, Supported Independence, or Functional Independence).

**Please take advantage of the assessment Pre-ID Report available in the BAA Secure Site to ensure all students are assigned to the correct test type in each content area, and submit changes, if needed, before the Tuesday, September 11, 2012 deadline for student barcode labels.**

## 5) Accessing the BAA Secure Site

Approximately a month ago, the "old" URL (https://oeaa.state.mi.us/meap/Index.asp) for the BAA Secure Site was permanently disabled. A notification that contained the new URL was sent to schools and districts at that time. However, we are continuing to get reports that people are unable to access the BAA Secure Site due to the use of the old, now disabled URL. Going forward, to access the BAA Secure Site, please ensure you are using the "new" URL:  https://baa.state.mi.us/meap/Index.asp. **Please be sure to delete any favorites/bookmarks that link to the "old" URL**.

## Questions?

Please email us at baa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.